

In re Patent Application of:
THOMSON ET AL.
Serial No. 09/658,389
Filed: **SEPTEMBER 8, 2000**

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A bicycle stem for connecting a bicycle handlebar to a bicycle steering tube, the bicycle stem comprising:

a body portion having opposing first and second ends;
a handlebar clamping portion connected to the first end of said body portion;

a steering tube clamping portion connected to the second end of said body portion and having a tubular shape defining a steering tube receiving passageway therethrough, said steering tube clamping portion also having a clamp receiving passageway therein transverse to the steering tube receiving passageway and in communication therewith;

a steering tube clamp in the clamp receiving passageway and comprising

a pair of cooperating clamp members aligned in side-by-side relation and comprising respective outer surface portions defining an imaginary circular cylinder and a recess therein for the steering tube, each clamp member also having at least one fastener receiving passageway therein offset a predetermined distance from [an] a central longitudinal axis defined by the imaginary circular cylinder, and

at least one fastener extending between corresponding fastener receiving passageways of said pair of clamp members for urging said clamp members together to

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engage the steering tube and thereby secure the bicycle stem to the steering tube.

2. (Currently amended) A bicycle stem according to Claim 1 wherein said fastener receiving passageways are offset the predetermined distance from the central longitudinal axis of the imaginary circular cylinder in a direction away from the recess.

3. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 1 wherein said body portion, handlebar clamping portion and steering tube clamping portion are integrally formed as a monolithic unit.

4. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 1 wherein said at least one fastener comprises a plurality of fasteners.

5. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 4 wherein said plurality of fasteners comprises first and second bolts, each having an enlarged head and a threaded shaft extending outwardly therefrom.

6. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 5 wherein said first and second bolts extend in opposite directions.

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7. (withdrawn) A bicycle stem according to Claim 1 wherein said at least one fastener comprises a single fastener.

8. (Currently amended) A bicycle stem according to Claim 1 wherein said fastener receiving passageways are also canted at a predetermined angle from parallel to the central longitudinal axis of the imaginary circular cylinder.

9. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 8 wherein the predetermined angle is in a range of about one-half to five degrees.

10. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 1 wherein the recess for the steering tube extends for greater than a predetermined angle.

11. (withdrawn) A bicycle stem according to Claim 10 wherein the recess for the steering tube extends for greater than about 90 degrees.

12. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 1 wherein said pair of clamp members each have a same shape.

13. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 1 wherein each clamp member comprises an end having a circular shape.

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14. (withdrawn) A bicycle stem according to Claim 1 wherein each clamp member comprises an end having a truncated circular shape.

15. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 1 further comprising a handlebar clamping member cooperating with said handlebar clamping portion to clamp the bicycle handlebar therebetween.

16. (withdrawn) A bicycle stem according to Claim 1 wherein a first clamp member is integrally formed with a side wall portion of said steering tube clamping portion, and wherein a second clamp member is movable relative to the first clamp member.

17. (Currently amended) A bicycle stem for connecting a bicycle handlebar to a bicycle steering tube, the bicycle stem comprising:

a body portion having opposing first and second ends;

a handlebar clamping portion connected to the first end of said body portion;

a steering tube clamping portion connected to the second end of said body portion and having a tubular shape defining a steering tube receiving passageway therethrough, said steering tube clamping portion also having a clamp receiving passageway therein transverse to the steering tube receiving passageway and in communication therewith;

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a steering tube clamp in the clamp receiving passageway and comprising

a pair of cooperating clamp members aligned in side-by-side relation and comprising respective outer surface portions defining an imaginary circular cylinder and a recess therein for the steering tube, each clamp member also having at least one fastener receiving passageway therein offset a predetermined distance from [an] a central longitudinal axis defined by the imaginary circular cylinder in a direction away from the recess, and

at least one fastener extending between corresponding fastener receiving passageways of said pair of clamp members for urging said clamp members together to engage the steering tube and thereby secure the bicycle stem to the steering tube;

said body portion, handlebar clamping portion and steering tube clamping portion being integrally formed as a monolithic unit.

18. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 17 wherein said at least one fastener comprises a plurality of fasteners.

19. (Currently amended) A bicycle stem according to Claim 17 wherein said fastener receiving passageways are also canted at a predetermined angle from parallel to the central longitudinal axis of the imaginary circular cylinder.

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20. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 17 wherein the recess for the steering tube extends for greater than a predetermined angle.

21. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 17 wherein said pair of clamp members each have a same shape.

22. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 17 further comprising a handlebar clamping member cooperating with said handlebar clamping portion to clamp the bicycle handlebar therebetween.

23. (withdrawn) A bicycle stem according to Claim 17 wherein a first clamp member is integrally formed with a side wall portion of said steering tube clamping portion, and wherein a second clamp member is movable relative to the first clamp member.

24. (Currently amended) A bicycle stem for connecting a bicycle handlebar to a bicycle steering tube, the bicycle stem comprising:

a body portion having opposing first and second ends;
a handlebar clamping portion connected to the first end of said body portion;

a steering tube clamping portion connected to the second end of said body portion and having a tubular shape defining a steering tube receiving passageway therethrough, said

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steering tube clamping portion also having a clamp receiving passageway therein transverse to the steering tube receiving passageway and in communication therewith;

a steering tube clamp in the clamp receiving passageway and comprising

a pair of cooperating clamp members aligned in side-by-side relation and comprising respective outer surface portions defining an imaginary circular cylinder and a recess therein for the steering tube, each clamp member having a plurality of fastener receiving passageways therein offset a predetermined distance from [an] a central longitudinal axis of the imaginary circular cylinder, and

a plurality of fasteners extending between corresponding fastener receiving passageways of said pair of clamp members for urging said clamp members together to engage the steering tube and thereby secure the bicycle stem to the steering tube.

25. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 24 wherein said plurality of fasteners comprises first and second bolts, each having an enlarged head and a threaded shaft extending outwardly therefrom.

26. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 25 wherein said first and second bolts extend in opposite directions.

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27. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 24 wherein said body portion, handlebar clamping portion and steering tube clamping portion are integrally formed as a monolithic unit.

28. (Currently amended) A bicycle stem according to Claim 24 wherein the fastener receiving passageways are also canted at a predetermined angle from parallel to the central longitudinal axis of the imaginary circular cylinder.

29. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 24 wherein the recess for the steering tube extends for greater than a predetermined angle.

30. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 24 wherein said pair of clamp members each have a same shape.

31. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 24 further comprising a handlebar clamping member cooperating with said handlebar clamping portion to clamp the bicycle handlebar therebetween.

32. (withdrawn) A bicycle stem according to Claim 24 wherein a first clamp member is integrally formed with a side wall portion of said steering tube clamping portion, and wherein a second clamp member is movable relative to the first clamp member.

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33. (previously presented) A bicycle stem for connecting a bicycle handlebar to a bicycle steering tube, the bicycle stem comprising:

a body portion having opposing first and second ends;

a handlebar clamping portion connected to the first end of said body portion;

a steering tube clamping portion connected to the second end of said body portion and having a tubular shape defining a steering tube receiving passageway therethrough, said steering tube clamping portion also having a clamp receiving passageway therein transverse to the steering tube receiving passageway and in communication therewith;

a steering tube clamp in the clamp receiving passageway and comprising

a pair of cooperating clamp members aligned in side-by-side relation and comprising respective outer surface portions defining an imaginary cylinder and a recess therein for the steering tube, each clamp member also having at least one fastener receiving passageway therein canted at a predetermined angle from parallel to an axis of the imaginary cylinder, and

at least one fastener extending between corresponding fastener receiving passageways of said pair of clamp members for urging said clamp members together to engage the steering tube and thereby secure the bicycle stem to the steering tube.

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34. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 33 wherein the predetermined angle is in a range of about one-half to five degrees.

35. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 33 wherein said body portion, handlebar clamping portion and steering tube clamping portion are integrally formed as a monolithic unit.

36. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 33 wherein the recess for the steering tube extends for greater than a predetermined angle.

37. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 33 wherein said pair of clamp members each have a same shape.

38. (original) A bicycle stem according to Claim 33 further comprising a handlebar clamping member cooperating with said handlebar clamping portion to clamp the bicycle handlebar therebetween.

39. (withdrawn) A bicycle stem according to Claim 33 wherein a first clamp member is integrally formed with a side wall portion of said steering tube clamping portion, and wherein a second clamp member is movable relative to the first clamp member.

Claims 40-76 (canceled).